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JENNER. H.
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OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

RELATIVE TO

Vaccination,

BY

HENRY JENNER, M. D., F. L. S.,

Many years professionally connected with his distinguished relative, the late

DR. EDWARD JENNER.



ALTHOUGH there are many more and much larger dairies, and a greater number of cows milked in Gloucestershire, than in most of the other counties throughout England, yet for many years past, the peculiar pustular eruptions which occasionally appeared on the teats of the cow, called the Cow Pox, scarcely at present ever occur, and the complaint is become almost annihilated and extinct, in consequence of the attained knowledge of its cause or origin being carefully avoided, or when such pustular eruptions may happen, there being immediate recourse had to remedies to check or stay their progress, and prevent the infecting action of the lymph taking any effect on the fingers of the milkmaids, which is then less likely to happen, by their having in general been before vaccinated, and rendering them less susceptible, and if affected by it, then in so slight a manner, as not to produce pustules that lymph can be obtained from that source, or be likely to convey the infection to other cows they might be engaged after to milk; besides the greatest care is taken by the farmers, that the complaint shall be unknown to have occurred in their dairies, or that any of their cows were at any time affected with it.

From these circumstances, the great difficulty and almost impossibility of again procuring the original, pure uncontaminated infection, or lymph, for carrying on perfect Vaccination may be attributed, for that which is at this time had recourse to, and has been for more than thirty years in general use, may be rendered less pure, and not to be so confidently relied upon, having in progression passed through some thousands of constitutions, and often not due care observed in selecting the most healthy children of healthy constitutioned parents, to take the infection from at a proper period, and from perfect pustules; we thereby find the consequence to be, that thus passing through such an immense number of constitutions, and imbibing impurities from diseased habits in its progress, that in numerous cases eruptive affections of the skin have ensued, the Small Pox being only mitigated, and in some instances the constitution not at all shielded from its full malignity: I have known also ulcerations of the arms, eruptive affections of the skin, and subsequent insecurity from the entire influence of Small Pox to have happened after Vaccination, although the lymph was taken by myself from the purest and most perfect pustules on the arms of the healthiest children I could select, by the culpable inattention and careless indiscretion of some of those persons who received it from me, allowing it afterwards to become damp and take on the putrifactive state before it was inserted, from which according to the state of putridity it had acquired, it became more or less contaminated, and produced in a greater or less degree, such insecurity or ill effects mentioned, which were after unjustly and ignorantly said to arise from the Vaccine Disease itself. I cannot therefore, hold myself responsible for the after safety and security of those vaccinated by others, although I should have supplied them with the infection, unless it is immediately inserted, and I am assured the children to be vaccinated with it, are then in a proper state to have the operation performed, or observe the progress of the disease, nor if the lymph is afterwards taken by them for the continuation of their practice, from the arms of those children previously vaccinated with the infection I had supplied.

With feelings of much pleasure, and gratified satisfaction, I can, however, now

communicate, that after long persevering enquiry and investigation, attended with great inconvenience and expence, ~~that~~ I have again very recently been so fortunate as to succeed in obtaining the pure, genuine Vaccine infection, from its original source, on the teats of a fine young Cow, with which I have produced the true perfect Vaccine pustules, and from this source alone, I shall carry on my vaccinations and re-vaccinations in my practice, and ~~no~~ no other but this in perfect purity will be sent by me to those who are desirous of obtaining it, and make applications for a supply, free of postage and inclosing a proper fee, intended for the aid of a Medical and Vaccine Establishment, and disseminating publications for the recommendation of the Vaccine practice. I have given up much of my time, and taken great pains, with heavy attendant expence, in rendering experimental aid and strenuous exertions, to promote and establish Vaccination, which is still by vast numbers of its antagonists and enemies, strongly and absurdly opposed, although it is certainly one of the greatest blessings bestowed by the Almighty on mankind, in the providential discovery of the late distinguished Dr. Jenner, and I may venture to say, that if the titled gentlemen of the profession, and others of experience and influence, would humanely interest themselves strongly in their recommendations of Vaccine-inoculation, and assure the advantages of its practice, they would in a short space of time, lessen the sufferings and misery, and preserve the lives of more human beings, than they have been able to accomplish from the commencement of their practice.

I have been induced to make the foregoing statements, not alone from motives of humanity or desire of emolument, but most earnestly to impress my instructive communications and observations for the future attention and guidance of those, who now, or may hereafter, practice Vaccination, and hoping the present deluded and perverted, will soon boast in their conversion, and become confidently assured of the safety and security of their families from any after influence of the contagion of Small Pox, or that we may hear no more of failures, or attend any longer to absurd reports of succeeding ill effects, or inefficacy, after judicious Vaccine-inoculation.

I shall add some observations I made on Vaccine-inoculation, in a Book published by me some years ago on the "Treatment and Management of Infants and young Children."

The last observation and impressive recommendation I have to make, though one of the greatest and most important duties of Parents towards their Children, is to secure them from that dreadful and deadly scourge of the human race, the Small Pox, to the contagion of which, and its baneful effects they are constantly liable, unless they have previously passed through that dangerous, loathsome, and cruel disease, either in the natural way, or the general much mitigated form from Inoculation, (which in many instances has not shielded the constitution from subsequent infection with unabated severity) or have fortunately received the salubrious and superior advantage of Vaccination. This is a certain, perfect, and permanent shield of safety against any future attack or influence from that sad disease, when the Inoculation is properly performed, genuine fresh infection employed, the progress of the disease attended to, and the state of the children when vaccinated duly considered. I assisted the late Dr. Jenner in making most of his various experiments, to prove and establish this providential discovery of Vaccination, before he ventured to publish it to the world: and I can with confidence, from some thousands of cases by the use of my own lancet, recommend it as a mild substitute, and secure, permanent, salubrious preventative against the contagion of Small Pox; the cases and objections absurdly brought forward in opposition to its general practice in this country (where alone it is chiefly opposed, and its discovery not hailed with gratitude) will upon investigation, be found erroneous or greatly exaggerated, or arising from a want of skill or perfect knowledge in this branch of the profession, for a competent knowledge of it is yet much confined, and it is not perfectly understood even by medical gentlemen themselves, who are otherwise deservedly esteemed, and highly eminent in the profession; and are not the failures and blunders of the most ignorant Inoculators, not of the profession, (who are still allowed to take up the lancet with impunity) excused, and all the subsequent and natural ill consequences impro-

perly and unjustly attributed to the inefficacy and pernicious effects of Vaccination itself?

Those who have been rashly and unfortunately submitted to the hands of ignorant and irregular Inoculators, and those who have not passed through the Vaccine disease, to the perfect satisfaction of experienced professional practitioners, should be re-inoculated with genuine fresh Vaccine infection to assure their security, they must otherwise remain very doubtful of such Inoculations being perfect, and having had their full effect in preventing any future influence of Small Pox contagion on the constitution.

I shall conclude these remarks in favor of Vaccine-inoculation, by quoting some appropriate lines on the subject selected from a poem by Dr. Downman :—

“ let me urge,
 O Parent! then, this duty: nor to fear,
 Nor superstition yielding, let thy child
 Encounter in his native shape the fiend,
 And brave his violence. For whither, say,
 To what sequester'd haunt canst thou retreat,
 Where he will not pursue? how vain thy flight,
 How sure thy victory, if, as art direct,
 And wise experience, thou anticipate
 His threaten'd blow!—so when the Patriarch's arm
 Was stretch'd to slay his son, an angel came,
 And sav'd the victim from impending death.”

“ *Moniti meliori sequamur.* ”

Berkeley, Gloucestershire,
 February 14th, 1836.

HENRY JENNER, M. D.

*Some of the Cases relative to Vaccination that occurred under my own observation
in the parish of Berkeley only.*



A young Man at Alkington caught the Small Pox, and was thickly scattered over with large distinct pustules, and confined, for some length of time, to his bed; at my urgent request, his Wife, whom I had previously vaccinated, consented to sleep for several nights in the same bed with him, but felt not the least influence from the disease.

A Woman of Ham, some years previously vaccinated, has often been since with her sons having the Small Pox.—She went with another woman to a house, not knowing the Small Pox was there; the other woman who accompanied her had not been vaccinated, caught the disease, and died; but previous to her death by it, the other who had been vaccinated, went to visit her several times, and staid with her for some hours, but was not infected.

JAMES PHIPPS of Berkeley, the first person vaccinated by Dr. Jenner, and now a servant in the family, I have several times since inoculated with active Small Pox matter, without producing any effect; he has never since had any eruptions, he enjoys very good health, and has never since had a single day's illness.

An aged person at Newport had the confluent Small Pox in so dreadful a manner, that he fell a victim to it; I saw him when in a dying state, and a fine little boy, his grandchild, (previously vaccinated,) playing with his convulsed fingers, with discharge from the pustules on the hands and fingers of the child, but no infection ensued.

A little Boy and his twin sisters, (my own children,) who had been previously vaccinated, were inoculated with active Small Pox matter several times after, and exposed to its contagion, but no infection ensued; nor when some time after, I took the boy into the room of a young person in the most loathsome, and nearly dying state of Small Pox, which frightened him, and with great difficulty I obliged him to go to the bedside, and take hold of the poor sufferer's hand, the smell of the room being also most offensive.

Two infant Children of a respectable farmer, near Berkeley, were vaccinated at the commencement of the Vaccine practice, before the propriety and consequence of the skin being free from eruptions when the operation was performed, was known to be important to ensure perfect safety from future entire influence from the contagion of Small Pox; and one of these children had some eruptions at the time, on the head, with soreness of the ears; he left this

place, and returned many years after, and caught the Small Pox in Bristol, but came and sickened with it at his brother's, where he was on a visit; it appeared to be of the confluent kind, and his face and great part of his body so completely covered with eruptions, that I was of opinion he could have no chance of recovery, but some days after, the eruption appeared to be receding and dying away, and he very soon perfectly recovered. His brother having no eruption or affection of the skin, vaccinated at the same time, and his little family afterwards, all escaped the least influence of the contagion of the Small Pox.

The wife of a person in Berkeley lay in, when another woman dreadfully ill with the Small Pox, lay in a bed in the same chamber. I vaccinated the infant in about an hour after its birth, and it passed regularly through the disease without any inconvenience, and received no infection, though constantly after staying in the same room. This child is now a fine healthy young woman, lately in the service of a Nobleman as Nurse-maid.

An old Man of Berkeley, when a boy, had the Vaccine disease from milking, but never received any influence after from Small Pox contagion, though he had several times been in houses where there were Small Pox Patients; and I inoculated him several times with active Small Pox matter, when he was upwards of seventy years of age, without producing any effect.

The wife of an aged person at Woodford, had the Vaccine disease more than forty years ago, from milking a farmer's Cows when in service; many years since her marriage, her husband caught the Small Pox, and had it in a most severe manner, but ultimately recovered; during her husband's dreadful and loathsome state, she not only was his nurse, but slept in the same bed with him, and her linen became much saturated at night, by the discharge from his numerous pustules, which was so great, that his shirt when taken off and became dry, was so stiff, that when opened it would stay in an upright posture without falling. So much absorption of the discharge on the shirt, arose from a superstitious opinion of many nurses, that the linen of persons afflicted with Small Pox must not be changed, as it was very unlucky, and giving the patient a much less chance of recovery; and I did not for some time discover this circumstance of the wife's great folly, which she kept concealed from me. To shew that this case was not exaggerated, and to satisfy the doubts of some persons, the truth of the case as described, was sworn before me, being at the time the Mayor of Berkeley.

A woman residing in a cottage near Stone, caught the Small Pox, and had a heavy burden of pustules, during which time she suckled her child, which I vaccinated when I

found the mother sickening with Small Pox; she kept the child in the same bed with her, and continued to suckle it. When she left her bed and sat up, and was nearly recovered, but with dried black looking pustules covering her face, breast, and arms, I took a gentleman who was averse to Vaccination, and often speaking against its efficacy, to see this woman in the state above described, and her infant sucking, and he became a convert.

Many persons were vaccinated at Purton, in consequence of a boy catching and dying of the Small Pox; but a fine handsome healthy young man, the captain of a brig, who was a native of the village, was persuaded by some of his acquaintance not to be vaccinated, and attending to this sad advice, he shortly after caught the Small Pox, and fell a victim to it; but his relatives, and the persons in the house where he had died, having been vaccinated, they felt no influence or effect from the Small Pox contagion.

H. J.

